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Ethanol Coalition of Michigan (ECOM)-NEWS



Who We Are

The Ethanol Coalition of Michigan (ECOM) unites commodity organizations, fuel suppliers, educators, producers, businesses, government agencies and individuals who are interested in expanding the production and use of ethanol in Michigan.

ECOM goals include: increasing public awareness on the benefits of ethanol; supporting legislative efforts, encouraging positive ethanol marketing practices and presenting ethanol educational programs to schools, civic groups and other interested parties.

Contact Information

If you are interested in receiving ECOM NEWS or have ethanol-related information to submit for this publication, contact Kelly Launder, Michigan Biomass Energy Program Coordinator at (517) 241-6223 or by email at: klaund@michigan.gov

Additional ethanol information is available on the Michigan Biomass Energy Program website at <http://michiganbioenergy.org>

ECOM Activities

Name and Chairperson Change

The Michigan Ethanol Working Group will now be called the Ethanol Coalition of Michigan (ECOM). ECOM has named Jim Pitts from the Lansing Community College Alternative Fuel Training Center as the new coalition chairperson.

2003 Goals & Activities

In January group objectives and activities for 2003 were determined. Activities will include preparing a list of Michigan ethanol-related accomplishments for the past year, completing an ethanol education plan for member organizations, drafting a paper that outlines issues that need to be addressed in the state to encourage increased ethanol use and production, and holding a legislative reception.

Additional Updates

Ohio/Michigan Biofuels Conference a Success!

More than 150 people attended the Ohio/Michigan Biofuels Conference in December. Conference topics included: an update on the status of ethanol and biodiesel development in Ohio, Michigan and nationwide; regulatory issues; and the potential for increasing biofuel development. Speaker presentations are available at www.bbiethanol.com/oh-mi-biofuels

Ethanol Production Continues to Increase

In 2002, an annual ethanol production record was set with over 2 billion gallons of ethanol produced in the United States. This was an increase of over 20% from 2001. More than 800 million bushels of corn were consumed in ethanol production. Due to the increased use of ethanol, it's estimated that CO₂-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by over 4.3 million tons. (Source: Renewable Fuels Association)

Clean Snowmobile Challenge to be held in Michigan

The 2003 SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge will be held March 19-23 in Houghton, Michigan. Fourteen teams will compete to create snowmobiles that are quieter, more fuel efficient, and have lower emissions than current models. All teams will operate the snowmobiles on at least 10% ethanol blends and can choose to use 85% ethanol blends. On Saturday, March 22, the 500-acre test track will be opened to the general public. Additional information is available on the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) website at www.sae.org/students/snow.htm or by contacting Jay Meldrum-Michigan Technological University at jmeldrum@mtu.edu

Additional Updates —continued

Michigan Biomass Energy Program (MBEP) Awards Grants for Biofuel Education

The MBEP has awarded grants to Kettering University and Urban Options for biofuel education projects. Kettering University will use the funds to develop a web page to explain the use of ethanol-blended transportation fuels. The web page will focus on disseminating objective information based on experience with ethanol-blended fuel in their snowmobile and Silverado truck. The snowmobile and truck have both been converted to run on ethanol blends up to 85%. Urban Options will educate students about biofuels (ethanol and biodiesel) and organize a biofuel motor rally, which will tour various areas of the state. Students will inventory school buses and family vehicles and determine the emission reduction and other environmental impacts from using biofuels versus traditional petroleum-based fuels. The biofuel motor rally will start on Earth Day and tour various areas of the state for 5 days, stopping at schools along the way. Funding is made available through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. The grant is administered by the CIS' Energy Office through the Michigan Biomass Energy Program.

Upcoming Events

Briefing on the 2002 Farm Bill & USDA Programs and Services

February 22-Lincoln, Nebraska

February 24-Pasco, Washington

February 26-Fresno, California

Contact: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

Phone: (800) 880-4183

Website: www.usda.gov/da/briefings/briefing.htm

Society of Automotive Engineers 2003 World Conference

March 3-6

Detroit, Michigan

Contact: Society of Automotive Engineers

Phone: (724) 776-4841

Website: www.sae.org

Workshop for Ethanol Plant Boards March 19

Watertown, South Dakota

Contact: American Coalition for Ethanol

Phone: (605) 334-3381

Website: www.ethanol.org

Alternative Fuels and Advanced Technologies Workshop for Fleet Managers March 27

Seattle, Washington

Contact: Emily West

Phone: (206) 543-5539

Website: www.engr.washington.edu/epp/

25th Symposium on Biotechnology for Fuels and Chemicals May 4-7

Breckenridge, Colorado

Contact: Liz Wilson

Phone: (303) 284-7750

Website: www.nrel.doe.gov/biotech_symposium

9th National Clean Cities Conference/Expo May 18-21

Palm Springs, California

Website: www.cccities.doe.gov

EPAC's 13th Annual Ethanol Conference June 11-13

Big Sky, Montana

Contact: EPAC

Website: www.ethanolmt.org

International Fuel Ethanol Workshop June 16-19

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Contact: BBI International

Phone: (719) 942-4353

Website: www.bbiethanol.com

ACE Annual Meeting & Ethanol Conference July 30-August 1

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Contact: American Coalition for Ethanol

Website: www.ethanol.org/conference.htm